

St Comgall's Primary School

1 Ballymena Road
Antrim BT41 4JG



Board of Governors
Annual Report to Parents
2012 - 2013

Board of Governors

Rev Fr S Emerson	Chair Person & Trustee
Mr P Hart	Trustee
Mrs R Lynch	Trustee
Mr P Murray	DENI
Mr S Marley	NEELB
Mr D Callan	Parent Governor
Mrs A Delaney	Teacher Governor
Mr J Matthews	Principal

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Staffing

Staffing consisted of principal, one vice-principal, 20 class teachers, one teacher - part-time special needs teacher / part time P.E, three peripatetic music teachers and one peripatetic literacy support teacher.

Teaching duties for the staff were as follows:

Junior Reception & Part-time Music			Mrs McCaughan	
Year 1	Miss Kearney	Mrs Mullan	Mrs Black	Miss Reynolds
Year 2	Mrs Ewing	Mr Henry	Miss McAllister	
Year 3	Mrs Bradley	Mr McShane		
Year 4	Mrs Kelly	Mrs Quinn	Mrs Devine	
Year 5	Mrs Cherry	Mr Jones		
Year 6	Mrs Hannigan	Mrs Magee		
Year 7	Mrs Duffy	Mr McLaughlin		

Principal Mr Matthews (Took up post on 17 Sept 2012)

Vice Principal Mrs Delaney

Special Needs Mrs O’Neill

School Psychologist Mrs Gillespie

Peripatetic Music Mr Lowry (Strings)

Mr Doherty (Wind)

Mr Heron (Strings)

Ancillary and Auxiliary

Office Staff Mrs McCollum

Classroom Assistants

Mrs. Walker	Miss Mills
Mrs. Hirst	Miss Cush
Miss McLernon	Mrs. Murphy
Miss Butcher	Miss Rush
Miss Begg	Miss McKay
Mrs. O’Neill	Mrs. Hunter
Mrs. Hussain	Mrs. Dalton
Mrs. Western	Miss Doole
Mrs Moran	Mrs. Hegarty
Mrs. Magee	

Cleaning Staff: Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Magee, Mrs. O’Neill
Mrs. Clyde, Mr Lavery

Building Supervisor: Mr Lavery

Patrol Staff: Mrs Clyde Mrs McCartney

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Supervisory Assistants

Mrs McCaherty Mrs Clyde Miss Doole Mrs O’Neill Mrs Dalton Miss McKay
Mrs Murphy Mrs Western Mrs Hunter

Chaplains:

Fr Emerson Fr McGrath

Appointments, Promotions and Resignations

Mrs Cherry retired after many years service to the Parish of Antrim.

PRSD, Beginning Teachers and Early Professional Development

Performance Review Staff Development (PRSD)

All staff took part in PRSD which focussed on development of peer observations for sharing of good practice.

Induction & EPD

Two teachers successfully completed Beginning Teacher Training

Focus

Teacher 1: Differentiation and special needs

Teacher 2: Development of reading and behaviour management strategies.

Four teachers were supported and mentored through induction and EPD.

Student Placements

Teaching Students:

Two teaching student’s placements were facilitated within year 5 & 6. The students were from St. Mary’s University College. The Student teachers successfully completed their practices.

Staff Development

Please find below the staff development that has taken place since Jan 2013.

Date	Training
7 Jan 13	Child Protection update training
17 Jan 13	Autistic Spectrum Disorder Training
21 Jan 13	Behaviour Management Course
06 Feb 13	MASTS training
11 Feb 13	ICT training for on-line work in the Primary School
25 Feb 13	Q-Skills training for SEN with CCEA Inclusion and Diversity training
26 – 28 Feb 13	Media Initiatives Respecting Differences Course
4 Mar 13	Sacred Moments training by Diocesan Advisers
6 Mar 13	Key Stage 1 Dance training
13 Mar 13	MASTS training on language development
13 Mar 13	Healthy Eating in the Primary School

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19 Mar 13	C2k e-safety seminar
21 Mar 13	MASTS Training course
20 May 13	Inclusion and Diversity Training
20 May 13	Supporting child with SEN into P1

Leadership Training

9 Jan 13	NEELB Positive behaviour – Expulsions and suspensions
23 Jan 13	RTU First Time Principals training
1 Feb 13	RTU The Outstanding School and the Inspection Process
28 Feb 13	NAHT – School improvement and how schools are evaluated
1 Mar 13	DECAL – Inspiring creativity and mobile learning
6 Mar 13	CCMS – Principals training
7 Mar 13	NEELB – Principals information– outcome of PIRLS and TIMSS

The following sections outline some of the highlights / events that have taken place in the school year 12 -13

Promotion of School Ethos

Sacraments

All sacramental meeting/sacraments took place throughout the year. Meetings were generally well attended by parents/guardians. Sacraments were well prepared by the children and the staff.

Christmas

Year 1 presented the Nativity through their show. There were two performances for 4 classes. Very successful! Audiences thoroughly enjoyed it.

Parish Carol Service – a prayerful service presented in song, drama, reading and artwork – was well attended by parents and some of the community.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week took place 27th January – 1st February. Throughout the week all the pupils were involved in learning about parish, Diocese and the community. On Thursday of that week, we had a celebration mass for Grandparents and invited them to school – hosting them with treats and tea/coffee. They were invited to visit their grandchild’s class. It was well attended and a very enjoyable day.

St. Patrick’s Day - 15th March

The school was awash with green on the 15th March as everyone dressed to celebrate St. Patrick. Year 5 children put together a production which included the story of St. Patrick, dance, songs and music. This was presented to the whole school and to the parents/families of Year 5 who were invited that afternoon.

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Sienna’s Anniversary 13th March

Our friend Sienna’s first anniversary was marked by a special mass celebrated by Fr. Emerson. Sienna’s family and friends were invited, Year 6 & 7 attended and prayers/music was presented by children of the school.

Easter Assembly Presentation for parents 27th March

Year 6 prepared a prayerful presentation of the Stations of the Cross. They were presented by prayer, photos of the stations, readings and singing.

Leadership & Management

Report on Special Educational Needs

Area of Focus	Number of Pupils	Outcome
MAST	17	Pupils support by relevant agency ➤ Speech & Language ➤ OT ➤ Social & Emotional
	5	Discharged
Psychology	0	Detailed Reports with recommendations for class teacher and external support
	6	Pupils assessed
	2	Transfer reviews
LTSS	2	One-to-one support from NEELB teacher
Reviews	Stages 2-5	69 reviews were carried out with targets set for individual children.
	5	Annual reviews were completed
Thornfield	1	
Audiology	0	
Support Programmes	12	Reading Recovery
	8	Time to Read ,
Total number on SEN Register	103	25 stage 1 71 stages 2 – 4 7 stage 5
Number of children removed from Register	7	Provision no longer needed.

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Pastoral Care

All pastoral arrangements were monitored throughout the school.

Whole school participation in programme of activities/events/competitions and special assembly during anti-bullying week. This engaged the children and focused on this important message.

Lunchtime arrangements reviewed and agreed by Governors to facilitate increased supervision for the children both inside and outside the classroom. New rotas were established and all classroom assistants were deployed for lunch supervision .

Principal’s PRSD

The Principal followed the PRSD process and outlined areas for his own PRSD with an external facilitator and two Governor reviewers.

Parent Contact Consultation Week

A new approach of a 2 p.m. finish all week seemed to be very successful for both staff and parents. Week ran 19th – 23rd November. Interpreters were booked for the following week to support parents with limited English.

Record Keeping and Assessment

Work on Assessment for Learning continued.

Formal Assessment in the Foundation Stage

BPVS – P1

MIST – P2

Standardised Tests were completed with all classes from year 3 up. They were independently supervised and marked. Information was put into our school database system and data analysis has been carried out with Senior Management. This analysis, using percentages, identified areas of strength and weakness and Included factors such as FSM, SEN and attendance.

End of Key Stage

Class assessment records completed and submitted. See results below

“Please note that from the 2012/13 school year, all schools assess pupils using the more challenging Levels of Progression. Due to the more demanding nature of the Levels of Progression, the outcomes for some pupils are likely to seem lower than might have been the case if assessment had been carried out using the previous system of assessment. 2012/13 outcomes are not therefore directly comparable with results in previous years.”

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Breakfast Club

All parents were notified of the changes to morning procedures that were agreed by Governors for child safety and protection. Some parents raised concerns and discussed these with the Principal. Generally parents welcomed the move and a smooth transition to the new procedures came into effect on Monday 3rd December.

Transfer Interviews (Week Beginning 4th February)

The Principal met with the parents of all Year 7 pupils for transfer interviews.

All first choices have been outlined below:

Table: First choices made by year 7 transfers.

	1st CHOICE
St.Benedict's College	5
St. Louis' Grammar	24
St. Patrick's B'mena	1
Dominican College	0
Slemish College (Integrated)	6
Antrim Grammar	5
Sperrin College (Integrated)	3
St. Mary's M'Felt	2
St. Malachy' s College B'Fast	2
Parkhall Integrated	1
TOTAL	49

Health and Safety

Four successful fire drills carried out throughout the year.

Fire escape on Senior building was fixed. Upper gate and fencing were also fixed by NEELB maintenance staff.

Alarm system was maintained.

Monitoring and Evaluating

The following areas have had a detailed book monitoring carried out by the subject co-ordinator(s), the Principal and the Vice-Principal.

1. Literacy
2. Numeracy
3. World Around Us
4. Religion

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Monitoring criteria was used for each subject. Each teacher received personalised/individual feedback for each area and whole school feedback was formulated in each area.

ICT has been baselined. The co-ordinator visited every classroom, spoke with every teacher and observed children’s practice.

Accommodation

New classrooms:

- 4 New classrooms were placed into school during the summer months to replace the existing mobile classrooms, which were being removed. These classrooms are state of the art and are a welcome addition to the accommodation for St. Comgall’s.

Increased pupil population – need for an additional classroom.

Proposed solution below was carried out during the summer of 2013:

- Current teacher staffroom – was reconstituted as a classroom.
- Current common room and adjoining store was converted into a large staffroom and kitchen area in the foyer of the senior building.

Land and property services have re-valued the school for the NEELB.

Attendance outline 2012 – 2013

Year Group	Attendance
1	94.2 %
2	95.2 %
3	95.7 %
4	94.8 %
5	96.3 %
6	94.3 %
7	96.4 %
Whole School	95 %

Classes & PTR

There were a total of 20 classes.

The overall teacher pupil ratio in the primary school was 21.6 children.

LMS (Local Management of Schools)

The school’s LMS Budget was £1,397,186. The financial year ended in planned deficit of £9,808

Primary enrolment

Enrolment for this year in Primary 1 we had 87 Children.

- This was made up of 64 new applications and 23 moving across from Junior Reception.

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Communication with Parents

Teachers2parents is our main network of communication to parents. This service has been extended at the request of parents to include emailing to parents as much information as possible. This system is now in place and is a welcome improvement for all parents.

Curriculum Development

Visitors to the school to support curriculum

1. N.I Electricity : Assembly on electricity safety.
2. Bank of Ireland: Supporting Year 7 in money management skills. Year 7 visited the bank.
3. Ceili Dancing: Year 5 had a 6 week course in Ceili dancing as part of their P.E. curriculum and presented to parents at St Patricks
4. Dairy Council: Worked with Year 5 & 6.
5. Re-think Waste: Initiative to promote recycling and re-using.
6. Enkalon: Visiting Year 7 to assist with applying for a grant to complete a project that will benefit the community.

New Assessment Arrangements

Staff development day in January 2013 was used to reacquaint staff with the new expectation for assessing children in Communication and Using Mathematics. The staff focused on using new assessment tasks to assess children using the new level descriptors. Each teacher has carried out tasks in both areas and submitted a sample of this work for good practice. The staff met and carried out agreement trials in Communication.

PRSD – Observation of Good Practice

As part of the PRSD process teachers visited other classrooms to observe good practice in a curricular area of the teacher’s choice. Each observing teacher formulated a report of good practice findings. This sharing of good practice was of great benefit to all involved.

Music curriculum:

P6s – Tin whistle with Miss Reynolds

P4s – Recorder with Miss Cush

P5s – Music Curriculum with Miss Cush

Choir/Orchestra and took part in a variety of activities and were very active. The activities included the Carol service; Open day -choir and traditional group playing for visitors; Ballymena festival; Confirmation instrumentalists; Choir sang at a service for bereaved parents at High Street Presbyterian Church; Sacraments and finished the year with a Music Recital for parents.

Ballymena Festival Successes!!

- Eva Hirst 1st in Solo Violin
- Ciara Shannon 3rd in solo violin
- Eva Hirst, Katie O’Hara and Lorcan McKeating 1st in string trio
- Choir 1st in primary school choir class
- The school achieved the Enkalon award for primary school music!

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Children achieve their Music Grades:

11 Children achieved their Grade 1 Music exam
1 Child achieved Grade 3 Music exam.

Inclusion and Diversity Training

This was recognised as necessary due to the increase in the number of newcomer children. This development work will continue. Training included useful resources and classroom strategies. The CEFR forms were used throughout the year and a new ‘Newcomer Welcome Pack’ was created for the Newcomers. Additional resources were purchased for Newcomer children and were dispersed throughout the school to assist with the language development of the children.

ICT Developments

- Year 4 & 7 took part in the CCEA IT Accreditation process. Pupil and school portfolio completed for ICT Accreditation. The school received good feedback for this.
- Year 4 and 7 teachers and pupils were introduced to and used Blogs through Learning NI

There has been some curricular development training in anticipation of the upgrade and change of the C2k system. These included:

- My School Training
- Cluster meeting in St Joseph’s PS Crumlin. Focus on exchange
- C2K safety seminar in Antrim Board Centre
- Fronter Training in Antrim Board Centre

Roots of Empathy Programme



Roots of Empathy is an evidence based classroom program that aims to reduce levels of aggression among school children by developing empathy in children and adults. This year St. Comgall’s decided to become involved in Roots of Empathy and P5B have loved the experience of baby Rylee visiting their class once a month.

Since October 2012 P5B have learned about feelings, crying, caring for each other, emotions, sleep, safety and communication. The class relate each of the themes to baby Rylee when she visits and to each other. It

has taught the children to be more empathetic towards each other through discussing how a baby develops and how every baby has different temperaments. It has also opened their eyes to the responsibility of being a mother. Every time baby Rylee visits, the room is filled with excitement and even the boys love to join in with the songs and questions for Catherine, Rylee’s mummy.

Time to Read

We have 6 time to read partners who come to school on Tuesday and Thursday of each week to read with a group of year 5 children. This is a very successful partnership between ourselves and local business people who give of their time each week.

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Eco-Committee Success!

- Having had an Assessment from the Eco-council, our school has now been awarded the highest possible award of Green Flag school.
- The school achieved 2nd place in N.Ireland in the Airtricity Eco awards to be held in Derry on 20th June.

End of Year Show

Year 7 children performed a wonderfully successful version of Disney’s “The Lion King”. They performed on 2 nights to a packed Parish Hall. They were ably assisted by the year 5 pupils.

Local and International Links

GAA

Links with the local GAA group continue to grow. They are developing the pitch area at the back of the school and working closely with the school avail of services to assist in this process. They have used the school building out of hours for a number of meetings and continue to link into the school text service as an additional means of communication with the children of the school.

Comenius (Past Project)

Lifelong Learning Programme Comenius Final Report was submitted in September 2012. The British Council deemed the Report successful.

Comenius (Current Project)

Comenius Visits

- a) St. Comgalls was visited by 3 teachers from our Comenius partner schools.
- b) Two St Comgall’s teachers visited France from 19th – 23rd March. They observed classroom practice and learned a lot about the French Education system.

Germany Trip

The trip to Germany took place from Thursday 25th April to Wednesday 1st May.

Lead teachers: Mr Matthews/Mrs Hannigan

Other accompanying teachers: Mr Mc Laughlin, Miss Kearney, Mr Mc Shane

32 children are travelled on the successful trip.

Germans Visiting

A reciprocal visit for German school took place on Wednesday 29th May – Wednesday 5th June.

Other areas of school life

All year groups attended Christmas pantomimes. Pantomimes were chosen to be age appropriate, at a variety of venues – Ballymena, Waterfront and Opera House Belfast.

After School Activities including extra-curricular activities

Seven week programme – first and second term.

After-school Activities

Throughout the academic year

Day	Activity	Year Groups	Teachers
Monday 3:00- 3:45	Orchestra*	P5, P6, P7	Miss Cush
Tuesday 3:00-3:45	Art	P5, P6, P7	Mrs Mullan, Mrs O’Donnell
Thursday 3:00-4:00	Soccer/Gaelic*	P5, P6, P7 (Boys)	Mr Jones Mr Henry
Thursday 3:00-3:45	Traditional music* Netball	P6, P7 P.5 – P.7	Miss Reynolds Mr McShane Miss McAllister Miss Cush Mrs. O’Neill

*Ongoing throughout the year

Tuesday club changed throughout the year.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Art	Golf	French

Cycling Proficiency:

The school was registered for the year (2012/13). Children worked on Cycling proficiency with Mr McShane.

Charities 2012/2013

CHARITY (1 Charity per term)	AMOUNT	DATE
NI Cancer Fund for Children	£1047.62	Dec 2012
Trocaire	£1485.31	24/4/13
Friends of Africa	£1000.00	June 2013
Action MS (Parent fundraiser) – Small donation	£50	May 2013